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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 23 Jan. 1951

SUBJECT Reported Formation of a Brigade for Combating Resistance

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In addition to regular Albanian Army units, a "volunteer brigade" reportedly has been formed to combat resistance activities. According to informant, the brigade has a strength of approximately 12,000 and is subdivided into companies of 200 men called "shetitese." The men wear civilian clothes and are equipped with light arms of Soviet manufacture.

Comment: This is the first report received concerning a civilian-clothed brigade formed to combat resistance. The term brigade may be loosely employed here. In any case, the figure 12,000 is highly in excess of any Albanian Army unit reported to date. Reference is possibly made to autonomous border and coastal battalions, drawn in considerable measure from the former DMP, and formed under the direct jurisdiction of the Border Coastal Command.

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